

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A surgical device, comprising:

a handle configured to be gripped;

a cylinder penetrator attached to said handle which includes a hollow cannula and a slidable member slidably mounted in said cannula;

a substantially planar blade having at least a first blade edge and upper and lower surfaces, said blade being attached to a distal end of said penetrator and oriented substantially parallel to a main axis of said cylinder penetrator and configured to produce a substantially planar opening in a body tissue for an insertion of a surgical cannula, and

a substantially planar guard configured to expose a cutting tip of the blade, said guard having a most distal end having a substantially uniform, continuous taper so as to form an edge angle at a tip end portion thereof smaller than a blade edge angle of said blade when viewed in plan view and said guard having upper and lower surfaces that are located on an exterior portion of said guard, said upper and lower surfaces of said guard each being substantially planar and parallel to the upper and lower surface of the blade along an entire length portion of said blade, and each of said upper and lower surfaces of said guard facing away from the blade.

Claim 2 (Original): The surgical device according to claim 1, further comprising:

said blade having a first and second blade edge, wherein:

said blade being oriented substantially parallel to said main axis of said cylinder penetrator.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 2, wherein a tip portion of said blade is substantially located along said main axis of said penetrator.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 1, further comprising a guard mounted on said a slidable member and moveable with respect to said blade to cover said at least first blade edge.

Claims 5-31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein said penetrator is hollow.

Claim 33 (Original): The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein said first blade has two cutting edges.

Claims 34-211 (Canceled).

Claim 212 (Currently Amended): A surgical device, comprising:

a handle configured to be gripped;

a cannula;

a cylinder penetrator attached to said handle, said penetrator including a slidable member; and

a substantially planar blade having at least a first blade edge and upper and lower surfaces, said blade being attached to a distal end of said penetrator and being oriented substantially parallel to a main axis of said cylinder penetrator and being configured to produce a partially planar opening in a body tissue for an insertion of a surgical cannula, a substantially planar guard being configured to expose a cutting tip of the blade, said guard having a most distal end having a substantially uniform, continuous taper and said guard having a safety guard edge angle smaller than a blade edge angle at a tip end portion of said blade when viewed in plan view and said guard having upper and lower surfaces that are located on an exterior portion of said guard, said upper and lower surfaces of said guard each being substantially planar and which are parallel to the upper and lower surface of the blade along an entire length portion of said blade, and each of said upper and lower surfaces of said guard facing away from the blade.

Claim 213 (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 212, said blade having a first and second blade edge, and said blade being oriented substantially parallel to said main axis of said cylinder penetrator.

Claim 214 (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 213, wherein a tip portion of said blade is located substantially in proximity with an extension of said main axis of said cylinder penetrator.

Claim 215 (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 212, further comprising a guard moveable with respect to said blade to cover said at least first blade edge.

Claims 216-222 (Canceled).

Claim 223 (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 214,
wherein:

said planar blade includes a plurality of cutting edges configured to intersect
substantially at the main axis of said cylinder penetrator; and

an insufflation passageway formed in said penetrator which is substantially aligned
with said main axis and which is communicated to said cutting tip and to a distal portion of
said hollow cannula and of said substantially planar guard.

Claims 224-260 (Canceled).